

WSDOT's Environmental Services Office and Highways & Local Programs LTAP Center present:

Biological Assessment Preparation For Transportation Projects

March 4 - 7, 2013 (#2165CN)
Exam: March 7, 2013

**Thurston County Fairgrounds
Expo Center
3054 Carpenter Road SE
Olympia, WA 98503
360-786-5453**

(The phone number above may be used in case of emergency to contact a student in the class.)

Time: March 4-6, 2013	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Cost: \$75.00
March 7, 2013	8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Exam)	Class Size: 45

Instructors:

Mark Bakeman, WSDOT Biologist
Cindy L. Callahan, Environmental Specialist/Biologist, FHWA Washington Division
Marion Carey, WSDOT Fish & Wildlife Program Manager
Jeff Dreier, WSDOT Biologist
Mike Grady, NOAA Fisheries Transportation Branch Manager
Julie Hampden, Herrera Environmental Consultants
Rick Huey, WSF Biologist
Jim Laughlin, WSDOT Air/Acoustics/Energy Technical Manager
Emily Teachout, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Transportation Planning Branch Team Lead

Target Audience*

WSDOT: Recommended for all WSDOT biologists and environmental staff who review BAs.

Consultants: Required for on-call consultants who write Biological Assessments (BAs) for WSDOT.

Local Agencies: Recommended for local agencies or consultants who write BAs for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funded projects.

***Please note that this seminar is intended only for individuals who actually write BA documents.**

Information for WSDOT Consultants

On June 1, 2006, WSDOT implemented requirements for on-call environmental consultants who prepare BAs. One of the qualification requirements is completion of this seminar and a passing score on the exam. For information on qualification requirements see:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Environment/Biology/BA/qualification.htm>.

Information for Local Agencies

This course and exam are **not mandatory**, but are recommended, for local agencies that either prepare BAs or hire consultants to prepare BAs for FHWA funded projects. The intent of these

requirements is to achieve greater consistency and quality in BA format, content, and analysis of project effects to listed species and designated critical habitat. Improved consistency and quality has the potential to significantly reduce the number of reviews and comments received during both the Department's and the Services' reviews of a local agency BA. A reduction in review times yields a significant savings in cost and avoidance in delay to your schedules.

Seminar Description

This three day seminar will provide guidance for preparing BAs for WSDOT projects. The seminar will cover fundamentals as well as more advanced topics. Topics will include: how to organize a WSDOT BA, what to include in a WSDOT BA, the consultation process, crafting a project description, conservation measures, minimization measures, indirect and cumulative effects, defining an action area, making appropriate effect determinations, and how to address stormwater, noise impacts and marine mammals. While some of the information will be familiar to individuals who prepare BAs on a regular basis, new information will also be provided on the latest WSDOT and FHWA policies and procedures associated with the consultation process.

Study Guide

The **Biological Assessment Seminar Study Guide** provides important details about the exam. It is recommended that you review the materials prior to the course in order to be successful on the exam. The study guide is available at: [Biological Assessment Seminar Study Guide](#)

BA Manual

We recommend that you print out a copy of the BA manual and bring it with you to the seminar as we are no longer able to provide course participants with a hard copy. Wait until the manual has been updated in February 2013 before printing, to insure that you have the correct version for the seminar. It is available on line at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Environment/Biology/BA/default.htm>.

Exam

The exam will be offered the last day of the class, March 7, 2013, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Local agencies and consultants working for local agencies are encouraged, but not required, to take the exam. However, on-call consultants writing BAs for WSDOT are required to pass this exam. The exam for the BA class will be a closed-book, multiple choice exam. Consultants who are already qualified BA authors will be taking the requalification exam.

Registration

Please register on-line using this link: [LTAP Training On-line Registration Form](#) .

Fill in the requested information, select your class from the list, then press "Submit." You will receive an e-mail notification with driving directions to the training site when we process your request. If you do not receive this e-mail notification within a day or two, you may not be registered and should contact us by phone.

Confirmation letters with an invoice will be mailed prior to the class. If you are unable to attend, someone else from your agency may attend in your place.

For Out-of-State Attendees: Registration is open now for the **wait list**. Use the on-line registration link below to register. Individuals from the three groups here will be placed on a wait list through Friday, **February 1, 2013**.

- Consultants in other states

- Agencies in other states
- Federal agencies in other states

After February 1, 2013, if seats are still available, names will be taken from this wait list and enrolled, in the order in which they were received. An e-mail notification will be sent when a name is moved from the wait list to the enrollee list.

Questions?

Seminar information for local agencies contact:

Bill Leonard at LeonardB@wsdot.wa.gov , or 360-705-7344.

Seminar information for WSDOT consultants' contact:

Jeff Dreier, DreierJ@wsdot.wa.gov or 360-705-7254

All other questions on this training, for registration assistance or cancellations contact:

Judy McDonald: McdonJT@wsdot.wa.gov, or (360) 705-7355.

Disability accommodations provided upon request.

Visit the
Washington State LTAP Center's Web Page:
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/localprograms/ltap/>

